

PLAYBILL®

Welsbacher Theatre
Wichita State University School of Performing Arts
Wichita, KS

Wichita State University School of Performing Arts presents

Happy Wright

By Straton Rushing

Winner of the Bela Kiralyfalvi
National Student Playwriting
Competition

Oct. 6-8
7:30 pm
Welsbacher
Theatre

29th & Oliver,
Entrance F



PG-13

Themes of
depression,
suicide, and
alcoholism

**Wichita State University School of Performing Arts
Welsbacher Theatre**

PRESENTS

HAPPY WRIGHT

by

Straton Rushing

with

**Austin Hancock
Renaë Richmond**

Scenic Designer
Scott Cockrill

Technical Director
William Smith

Wigs/Hair/Makeup Designer
Cat Kee

Costume Designer
August Smaglik

Dramaturg
Madeline Bieber

Lighting Designer
Denise Ussery

Props Design
Cassie Winsler

Assistant Stage Manager
Dylan Bray

Sound Designer
Madilyn Henderson

Stage Manager
Emily Matchell

Assistant Director
Lynnaya McClure

Directed by
Ben Bolinger

Bela Kiralyfalvi National Student Playwriting Competition

The Wichita State University National Playwriting Contest was created in 1974 by Bela Kiralyfalvi, Ph.D., Theatre Professor and Director of the School of Performing Arts until his retirement in 2003.

At WSU, Kiralyfalvi taught acting, playscript analysis, playwriting and developed an improvisation course. Although he served as Director for many years, he claimed his most satisfying highlight was simply being as a teacher. "Teaching has always been exciting and interesting. I've enjoyed learning and understanding things better through the process. I joke with students when they are getting ready to graduate after four or five years. They'll say, 'Oh, I am going to be so glad to get out of here.' I tell them, 'You know, I've spent 45 years in college, and I still haven't left.' And it's true you never cease to be a student. If you cease to be a student, you will not be a good teacher."

The playwriting competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any college or university in the United States. The selected playwright's script is workshopped, culminating in either a staged reading or a fully realized production by the WSU School of Performing Arts Program. In 2022, *Happy Wright* by Straton Rushing was chosen, and is now being actualized on the Welsbacher stage.

For more information on the Bela Kiralyfalvi National Student Playwriting Competition, visit www.wichita.edu/theatre/playwritingcompetition

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by
David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION



Straton Rushing is a dramatic writer originally from Sonora, Texas. He was recently given the 2022 William Faulkner Literary Award for Playwriting.

His plays have been featured with Phoenix Theatre Company, Capital Repertory Theatre, Actor's Theatre Playhouse, Dallas College, Orpheus Theatre Company, SceneShop, the University of Houston, the Savannah College of Art & Design, Scribe Stages, TheatreWorks New Milford, Focal Theatre Lab, Dragon Productions, Crafton Hills College, the Festival De La Bête Noire and other companies around the US and internationally.

His radio plays have appeared on the Theatrically Speaking, Garden of Voices, and Between Acts podcasts. Recent publications include plays in the Silk Road Review, the Ponder Review, Nine Cloud Journal and with Smith & Kraus. Straton holds degrees in Theatre and Philosophy from the University of Texas at Arlington.

He is currently an MFA Dramatic Writing candidate at Arizona State University. Straton is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America. StratonThePlaywright.com

CAST

Cast Members

Happy (Thursday) Austin Hancock

Happy (Friday, Saturday) Renae Richmond

Production/Crew

Director Ben Bolinger

Assistant Director Lynnaya McClure

Director Mentor Danette Baker

Stage Manager Emily Matchell

Assistant Stage Manager Dylan Bray

Technical Director William Smith

Stage Management/Technical Director
Mentor Ed Baker

Scenic Designer Scott Cockrill

Scenic Design Mentor David Neville

Props Designer Cassie Winsler

Costume Designer August Smaglik

Wigs/Hair/Makeup Designer Cat Kee

Costume/WHM Design Mentor Sarah Bussard

Lighting Designer Denise Ussery

Sound Designer Madilyn Henderson

Dramaturg Madeline Biever

Props Run Crew Trevor Andreasen

Wardrobe Supervisor/Crew Morgan Holcomb

Light Board Operator Grace Gibbs

Playwrighting Competition Coordinator Jeannine Russell

Production Coordinator Melissa Penkava Koza

Scene Shop Manager Jason Flanders

Performance Facilities David Muehl

Director of SPA Cheyla Clawson

Program Design Stacy Salters, Sophia Hillman

CREW WHO'S WHO



Madeline Bieber

Madeline Bieber (Dramaturg) is excited to be involved with her first show at Wichita State & as a dramaturg! Previously she has directed *Little Women* (Singing Onstage Studios), *Moon Over the Brewery* (FUSE Productions), and *Godspell Jr* (Singing Onstage Studios). Madeline is a BA in Performing Arts-Theatre major with a minor in Religion and a certificate in Directing. She is an ambassador for the College of Fine Arts. A life goal is to work for a theatre company that emphasizes equity, diversity, and social justice, using art to inspire audiences to think about the world and how they can change it for the better.



Dylan Bray

Dylan Bray (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on Wichita State University Theatre's production of *Happy Wright*. Previously he served as assistant costume designer for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Empty Space), worked as part of the costume maintenance crew for *The Scarlet Letter* (WSU), and production assistant for *Tartuffe* (Cloud County Community College). Dylan is working on a BA in Performing Arts-Theatre and a minor in Graphic Design. He is a member of Student Activities Council Exec Board, Empty Space Theatre Student Exec Board, & SPA Marketing Team.

CREW WHO'S WHO



Ben Bolinger

Ben Bolinger (Director) is thrilled to be working on Wichita State University theatre's production of *Happy Wright*. Previously he served as the Assistant Director for *Go Like Saints* (WSU), Stage Manager for *A Christmas Carol* (Butler Community College Theatre), and also was Stage Manager for *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus* (Butler CC Theatre). Ben is graduating Fall '23 with a BA in Performing Arts-Theatre and a Directing Certificate. He's a member of Butler's Delta Psi Omega chapter & was president his final year. Ben's mission is to co-start his own theatre/production company, providing more opportunities for people to become involved in theatre.



Scott Cockrill

Scott Cockrill (Scenic Design) is honored to be working on Wichita State University's production of *Happy Wright*. Previous design credits for WSU include Assistant Scenic Design for *The Scarlet Letter* (opera), *Love's Labor's Lost*, and *Keepers of the Flame*. Scott is a senior pursuing BFA in Performing Arts-Design & Technical Theatre. Scott is currently the Technical Director at Wichita Children's Theatre and Dance Co. Life is always a struggle and I aim to do it as an artist. Find out more about Scott at <https://sacockrill.weebly.com/>



Austin Hancock

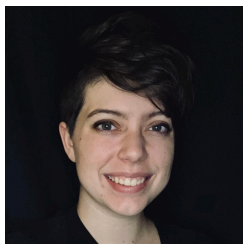
Austin Hancock (Happy) is thrilled to be performing in his first one-person show at Wichita State University. Before this show, he had roles in *Dead Man's Cellphone* (Independence Community College), *Love's Labor's Lost* (WSU), & *Go Like Saints* (WSU). Austin is a senior pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Design & Technical Theatre & a Voice Acting certificate. Austin's mission is to "Make people laugh and enjoy life, even if for but a moment."

CREW WHO'S WHO



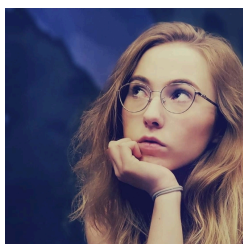
Madilyn Henderson

Madilyn Henderson (Sound Designer) is excited to be working on WSU's production of *Happy Wright*. Henderson has previously worked as Sound Technician and Carpenter in *The Runner Stumbles* (Butler Community College), Sound Technician in *The Ballad of Kate the Shrew* (BCC) and has appeared as an ensemble member in *The Pajama Game* (BCC). Henderson is a junior transfer student seeking a BFA in Performing Arts-Design & Technical Theatre.



Cat Kee

Cat Kee (Hair and Makeup Design) is excited to be working on Wichita State University's production of *Happy Wright*. This is their second design credit, after *Go Like Saints* (WSU). Cat is a third year BFA in Performing Arts-Theatre major with a minor in American Sign Language.



Emily Matchell

Emily Matchell (Stage Manager) is incredibly excited to be working on *Happy Wright* at Wichita State University. Previously Emily stage managed *The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged*, *Love Me or Leave Me*, [title of show], & *Love's Labor's Lost*. She also served as the charge artist for *Anything Goes*. Emily is a senior at WSU pursuing a BA in Performing Arts-Theatre, a minor in Art & Design, & a Stage Management certificate. She is excited to continue telling stories through theatre.

CREW WHO'S WHO

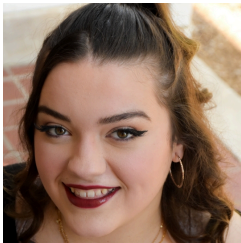


Lynnaya McClure

Lynnaya McClure (Assistant Director) is ecstatic to be involved in the Bela Kiralyfalvi National Student Playwriting Competition show for the second time. Additionally, this is her first time assistant directing a show at the college level. Previous credits include being Props manager for *Go Like Saints*, portraying Mote in *Love's Labor's Lost*, and being an Assistant Stage Manager for *Keepers of the Flame*, all through WSU. She is a junior who is pursuing a BA in Performing Arts-Theatre, minors in Business Administration and Musical Theatre, & a certificate in Directing. Outside of involvement in theatre, Lynnaya is a member of the Cohen Honors College & the International Buddy Program. She will be portraying Lurene in Stagestruck Audio Theatre's upcoming production of *The Dirt Nap*.

David Neville

David has designed lighting for over 300 productions for various regional theatres including Music Theatre of Wichita, Walnut Street Theatre, Pioneer Theatre, Ordway Music Theatre, Papermill Playhouse, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Sacramento Music Circus, Portland Center Stage, North Carolina Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Lyric Opera of Virginia, Theatre Under the Stars, Music Theatre West, Arkansas Rep and Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera. David has designed National tours, Off-Broadway, Off-off Broadway. As an assistant designer David has worked for the Metropolitan Opera, Cincinnati Ballet, the First National tour of *Les Misérables* and on several Broadway productions. Other projects include designs for national and international tours, working as a gaffer for PBS and Abu Dhabi TV.



Renae Richmond

Renae Richmond (Happy) is proud to present this wonderful project to you. Their previous credits include *Go Like Saints* (Wichita State University), *Love's Labor's Lost* (WSU), and *Voices in the Void* (WSU). They are currently pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Theater and a minor in Music Theater. Their personal mission is to make a safe space for other artists' voices to be heard.

CREW WHO'S WHO



August Smaglik

August Smaglik (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be working on Wichita State University theatre's production of *Happy Wright*. Previously they served as a props artisan for the Music Theatre Wichita 2022 Season including shows like *Jersey Boys*, *42nd Street*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. They have also costume designed *The Scarlet Letter* (WSU), and was lead props assistant for *Love's Labor's Lost* (WSU). August is a junior pursuing a BFA in Performing Art-Design & Technical Theatre. Their mission is to pursue a career in props artistry.



Denise Ussery

Denise Ussery (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be working on Wichita State University Theatre's production of *Happy Wright*. Previous credits include scenic carpenter for WSU's school of music *The Scarlet Letter* (Opera), sound engineer in WSU theatres *Love's Labor's Lost*, and audio assistant in WSU's *Keepers of the Flame*. Denise is a junior pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Design & Technical Theatre. Find out more about Denise at <https://deniseussery.weebly.com/>

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SCHOLARSHIP

Dalton Devoe
Sophia Hillman

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PERFORMING ARTS ANGELS

The Performing Arts Angels exist to provide educational and training opportunities for talented dance, musical theatre, and theatre (performance and design/tech) students in the School of Performing Arts - opportunities not funded through the state or university.

The School of Performing Arts faculty, staff, and students recognize and deeply appreciate all your financial support. It allows us to fulfill our mission to educate and train students for a career in the arts and entertainment industry. To find out how you can become a Performing Arts Angel and support the School of Performing Arts students, please contact our office at 316-978-3945 or give online at www.wichita.edu/give.

We apologize in advance for any omission or errors in this list. Please bring corrections to the attention of Ann Marie Siegarth at annmarie.siegarth@wichita.edu or 316-978-3945. Listings may shift from one program to another depending on the timing and receipt of gifts.

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22-23

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Stupid F##king Bird Nov 17-20 7:30 p.m. Thur/Fri/Sat & 2:00 p.m. Sun @ Wilner

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Wichita Children's Dance Festival Jan 29 2:00 p.m. Sun @ Wilner

Directed by Sabrina Vasquez

Pippin Feb 23-26 7:30 p.m. Thur/Fri/Sat & 2:00 p.m. Sun @ Wilner

Music & lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Directed by Richard Biever

Compendium Apr 21-22 7:30 p.m. Fri/Sat @ Welsbacher

Directed by Dr. Bret Jones

WCDT Concert Apr 27-30 7:30 p.m. Thur/Fri/Sat & 2:00 p.m. Sun @ Wilner

Wichita Contemporary Dance Theatre
featuring guest choreographer Charlotte Boye-Christensen

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



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